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**HASKELL SWAMP
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
(ROCHESTER, MATTAPOISETT, & MARION, MA.)**

- Parking Right of Way WMA Boundary Surrounding WMAs Boundary between land held in Fee and CE **CE** Conservation Easement held by the Dept. of Fish and Game.

Map features such as designated parking areas may not exist for all WMAs.

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Haskell Swamp

Wildlife Management Area

Rochester/Mattapoissett/Marion

2,712 Acres

The Haskell Swamp Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is comprised of 2,712 acres of red maple swamp, Atlantic white cedar swamp, oak/white pine upland habitat and small areas of eastern hemlock in Rochester, Mattapoissett and Marion. The northwestern part of the WMA is comprised of two named swamps, Towsers Swamp and Haskell Swamp, which are separated by a long, narrow ridge of upland called Towsers Neck. Most of Haskell Swamp WMA is in the drainage area for the Sippican River.

The initial 1,690 acres was purchased in 1997 by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife from Acushnet Saw Mill, Inc. Acreage continues to be added as it becomes available. The area is managed for wildlife habitat and open space.

Access

The parking area is on Dexter Lane. For most of the year the gate at the parking area is locked; however, at these times there is room for a few cars to park just outside of, but not blocking, the gate.

Features

In addition to providing excellent deer habitat, the property is traversed by several scenic old logging roads. One of these roads, the Boat Rock Road which runs north and south along the western side of the WMA, was, historically, the main road between Rochester Center and Mattapoissett. The Boat Rock Road is shown on the USGS topographic map by a dashed line, but not by name.

Much of the WMA property was owned for many, many years by a few families who carefully managed their land for long-term harvest of forest products. One large parcel had been owned by the same family for 300 years until it was acquired by MassWildlife in 2000. This long-standing pattern of ownership and management resulted in many large, mature trees remaining, adding to the scenic quality of the area.

History

The area of Haskell Swamp WMA has a history going back to King Phillip's war in the late 1600's. According to the book, King Philip's War by Schultz and Tougas (1999), the sachem of the Mattapoissett, Totoson, had his camp on the upland ridge, now called Towsers Neck, that runs between Towsers Swamp and Haskell Swamp. The name Totoson evolved over time to Towser (pp. 115-116).

Hunting and Wildlife Viewing

The Haskell Swamp WMA supports a large variety of game and nongame wildlife. A survey conducted by the South Shore Bird Club on June 11, 2000, found 42 bird species on that day, including red shouldered hawks, woodpeckers, hermit thrushes and other song birds. Hunting opportunities are primarily for deer. Snowshoe hare are stocked when available

For More Information, contact: *Southeast Wildlife District, MassWildlife, 195 Bournedale Road, Buzzards Bay, MA 02532 (508) 759-3406* *MassWildlife Website:* www.mass.gov/masswildlife

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